

Visitors to DC Fire/EMS



On July 28, Fire/EMS Chief Thompson was visited by a six-member delegation from the Ghana Forestry Commission visiting the United States on a two week wildfire management study tour. One of the delegates is a Deputy Fire Chief of the Ghana Fire Service who was interested in learning more about structural firefighting from Fire/EMS.



Visiting Deputy Fire Chief Albert Gaisie of Ghana and Firefighter David Broughton of Scotland talk to Lt. John Donnelly at Special Operations. Firefighter Broughton was at Special Operations from July 24-28, learning about terrorism response and HAZ MAT.



Congratulations to Firefighter Karen Hunt, (E-31-3) (Diva No. 94) and the other members of the DC Divas on defeating the Oklahoma City Lightning in the National Women's Football Association (NWFA) Championship. The Divas beat Oklahoma City by a score of 28 to 7 in the Super Bowl of women's football played on August 5 in Pittsburgh. Firefighter Hunt has been a member of the DC Divas since 2004 and currently plays defensive end for the number one defense in the NWFA.

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- Retired Captain Virgil B. Hoying who passed away on August 6, 2006;
- Retired Firefighter Robert R. McCarthy who passed away on August 21, 2006;
- Retired Lieutenant Phillip Bassette who passed away on August 21, 2006; and
- Retired Firefighter John D. Smith who passed away on September 7, 2006.

Quiz Answers: 1c, 2a, 3b.



In what has become a 9/11 tradition at Engine 15, 343 American flags were arranged outside the firehouse in honor of each FDNY firefighter who died in the World Trade Center.

Message from the Fire/EMS Chief

I would like to ask all members of DC Fire/EMS to remember those who perished in the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. Our thoughts are specifically with the families of the 343 New York City firefighters who died that day. 9/11 was a stark reminder of how dangerous emergency response work is.

The men and women of this great Department worked hand-in-hand with public safety personnel from the region in putting out the fire and treating victims from the Pentagon. It was the largest fireground in the history of firefighting in our region.

★★★ **Adrian H. Thompson,**  
**Fire/EMS Chief**  
**Anthony A. Williams, Mayor**

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Please e-mail your births, deaths, retirements, marriages or other personal news to share to [gwendolyn.smith@dc.gov](mailto:gwendolyn.smith@dc.gov). Submissions are requested no later than the third Tuesday of the month at 5 p.m.

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### Message (cont'd)

9/11 truly tested our resolve to provide fire suppression and emergency medical services. While we remain overwhelmed by the sadness of that day, I remain awestruck at the miracles performed that day and the achievements that continue to be made by our firefighters and EMS providers.

The attacks awakened a sense of urgency in preparing for disasters across the country. The positive changes that have taken place in this department are dramatic. Working with local, state, and federal officials, we are better prepared than ever before to respond should the unthinkable ever happen again.



On August 2, Fire/EMS with the DC Department of Parks and Recreation hosted the 4th Annual Fire Safety Olympics, a program of physical competitions designed to teach fire safety and prevention skills. Mayor Williams was a guest of honor during the Olympics which was held at Sherwood Recreation Center (640 10th Street, NE) this year.

More than 300 children between the ages of five and 12 competed in events like the "Running Gear Race," where the young people don firefighter protective gear and run in a foot race, the "Fire Brigade," the "Stay Low and Crawl," and "Stop Drop and Roll." The Fire Safety Olympics is a great way for children to have fun while learning critical, potentially life-saving skills.

### Managing Health Technology

#### Office of Information and Privacy – Working 4 U

The Office of Information and Privacy headed by Ms. Tisa Smith will recognize Health Information and Technology Week November 5-11, 2006, sponsored by the American Health Information Management Association. As DC Fire/EMS moves towards keeping health records electronically, the focus will be on "Managing Information – Improving Care."

#### Quiz

- Which of the following sentences is true?
  - The quest for data standards is a 21st century phenomena.
  - Technology is the most important factor for HER deployment.
  - Health IT deployment is moving from conversation to action in 2006.
- Which of the following elements are essential to Electronic Health Records (EHR) Implementation?
  - Leadership
  - Legislation
  - Full government funding
- Which of the following are included in the recipe for creating an Information-based health system?
  - Hollerith cards
  - Data analysts
  - Serial unit numbering system for file folders.

Thank you to Edward Leonard, IT Director, Raj Kaur, HIPAA Training Coordinator, Tyra Thomas, HIPAA Specialist, and Angela White, Medical Records

Specialist, for your hard work in helping DC Fire/EMS maintain compliance with the privacy rule.

**Answers on page 8**

### Performance Milestone

On August 26, 2006 the DC Fire/EMS Department maintained ALS response times of 8 minutes-or-less 90 percent of the time. This achievement is one of many from Fire/EMS and our emergency responders this year. Response times are steadily decreasing, the number of paramedics and Paramedic Engine Companies are steadily increasing, more training is available for our personnel than ever before, and new apparatus is coming in service.

More work will be necessary to sustain this 8 minutes-or-less ALS response time achievement, and with continued commitment to the program we will soon reliably meet the goal 90 percent of the time. Today we know that the dedication and commitment of

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Deputy Fire Chief Richard Fleming addresses the National Association of State Fire Marshals Annual Conference held in the District August 11-16. Fire Marshals from 37 states and the District attended. "Transportation Safety" with a focus on rail transportation was this year's theme.



On August 2, members of the Fire Boat Company had an opportunity to drill at Little River Falls on the Potomac River. Low water levels made the event possible on a stretch of river that is considered dangerous when water levels are high.

### Public Service Award



On May 19, 2006, Battalion Fire Chief Edward Pearson and members of Battalion 2, No. 2 Platoon were awarded a "Public Service Award" for their community involvement. The Award was presented by the Metropolitan Police Department Citizens' Advisory Council to the members of Battalion 2, No. 2 Platoon for their community engagement in educating residents on fire prevention, providing smoke alarms and home safety checks. These members were also in the community recruiting potential future firefighters for the department's May 2006 entry-level examination.



Fire/EMS personnel will get the job done. We are reaching more critical patients faster, treating more people in need, and saving more lives.

## Spirit of Washington Drill Test Readiness

On July 10, Fire/EMS companies participated in a drill involving an explosion on the Spirit of Washington cruise ship. Several agencies and local jurisdictions including MPD, Alexandria Fire Department, and the US Coast Guard were thrust into action after a fictitious explosion and fire ripped through the huge dinner cruise ship. The DC Fire Boat No.2 Platoon was first to respond and begin effecting water rescues and treating patients.



Mrs. Leola Pierce presented a piece of DC Fire/EMS history to members of Engine 15. Mrs. Pierce is the granddaughter of the late Captain Charles Hopkins; the original Captain of Engine 15 when it opened in 1898. When he retired, Captain Hopkins was given a lantern from the horse-drawn steam engine used at that time. In a ceremony on August 13, Mrs. Pierce dedicated the old lantern in memory of her grandfather and donated it to the Friendship Fire Association's DC Fire Museum. Pictured in the front row left to right: Lt. Timothy Jones, (E-19), Walter Gold, FFA Executive Director, Mrs. Pierce, museum curator Mark Tennyson and A/BFC Paul Jones (2nd Bat-2). Also pictured are members of Engine 15 and Rescue Squad 3.

Other Special Operations and fire suppression units were involved in the drill, which was a successful demonstration of interjurisdictional cooperation.

## Meet the MIS Staff

By the end of October, expect to see online ordering of supplies, a BETA rollout of the MDT project, and BETA test of Firehouse data collection software.



From left to right: Syed Quadri, IT Specialist - Tier three help desk; Jyoti Agrawal, Program Analyst - Database Admin. Firehouse, Vehicle Accident Database, Fire Hydrant Survey; Ronald Tresvant, Telecommunications Specialist - Desk phones, Data lines, cell phones; Ozell Cooper, Program Analyst - Mobil Data Terminals, Supply Chain Management Software, laptops; Ed Leonard, IT Manager; Raj Kaur, Program Analyst - Firehouse, FP/FI database, SunPro, HIPAA, Web.



Firefighter Sam Short helps serve a dinner of ribs and chicken, courtesy of the Hard Rock Café. It was part of a national promotion where firefighters across the country were treated to a meal. Hard Rock employees delivered the food to Engine 2 on July 11.

## Form 902EMS –

### First Responder Patient Care Form

Starting the week of September 11 a new version of the Form 902EMS is being distributed for use by first responders on medical incidents. This new version of the form has a carbonless duplicate page which will make it easier to record how patients present when we first arrive on the scene and maintain that information as care passes from first responder to transport, and finally to hospital staff. This is one more way the Fire/EMS Department is working to improve patient care and documentation. Special Order 2006-53 includes detailed instructions on using Form 902EMS.

## Ride to Remember

Forty-two days and 3,700 miles after they began,

eight members of the "Ride to Remember" arrived at Engine 6 for a welcome home ceremony on September 11. Minutes before, the bicycle troupe passed the Pentagon, where 184 people died in the terrorist attack on September 11, 2001. Their journey began August 1, in San Francisco. They wound their way across the country, stopping at firehouses generating publicity and interest in the stories of the victims of 9/11.

Fire/EMS Chief Thompson praised the group, saying their dedication "epitomizes all that is good in the fire service."



Three members of the group are DC firefighters: Lt. Craig Duck (E-6-3), FF/P Ellen Kurland (E-11-1), and FF Tony Ferek (T-11-4).

## DC Fire and EMS Capital Improvements

The District of Columbia Fire and EMS Department is fortifying services across the District. Several capital improvement projects, some new and

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**Capital Improvements (cont'd.)**

others nearing completion, are enhancing service delivery for residents.

**Engine 9 (1617 U St. NW)**

Engine 9, located on historic U Street is being renovated. Major construction began this week and the renovated firehouse is expected to re-open in fall 2007. During construction, the companies stationed at Engine 9 will continue to provide services for people in the neighborhood. Engine 9 is sharing quarters with Engine 4 at 2531 Sherman Ave. NW. Ambulance 9 and Truck 9 are



**Engine 25 (3203 Martin Luther King, Jr. Ave., SE)**

Engine 25, located in Anacostia, also began major renovations this month with completion expected in fall 2007. During construction, the companies stationed at Engine 25 will continue to provide services for people in their neighborhood. Paramedic Engine Company 25 and Ambulance 25 are sharing quarters with Engine 33 at 101 Atlantic St. SE.

**Engine 17 (1227 Monroe St. NE)**

Engine 17, located in Brookland closed in spring of 2005 for renovations. The completed firehouse with an added ambulance bay is expected re-open by January 2007. Engine 17 will return to Monroe St NE and a new EMS company, Ambulance 17, will be added in the 1st Battalion.

**Engine 20 (4300 Wisconsin Ave. NW)**

The much anticipated completion of this key firehouse in Tenleytown is expected later this year. Residents will enjoy a completely refurbished, modern fire station able to accommodate the needs of this vibrant community. When the project is completed, Engine 20, Truck 12 and Ambulance 20 will return to their home since 1901.

**Engine 28 (3522 Connecticut Ave. NW)**

After the completion of Engine 20, the agency can focus attention on the restoration of Engine 28. This Cleveland Park landmark will undergo a complete modernization, including upgrading the living quarters and apparatus bay area. Construction there could begin next spring.

DC Fire & EMS continues to strengthen services

**US Park Police Recognition**

Assistant Chiefs Douglas L. Smith and William H. FitzGerald received merit awards from US Park Police on September 12 for actions taken on the scene of a helicopter crash earlier this year.

On May 30, a medical transport helicopter crashed on the grounds of the VA Soldiers' Home in north central Washington. Chiefs Smith and FitzGerald were riding along in a USPP Eagle helicopter and responded from Bethesda. They were first to arrive to an area of the golf course, where the helicopter crashed into a tree before impacting the ground. Chief FitzGerald used a fire extinguisher to put out a small fire in the engine compartment while Chief Smith began first aid on the victims. The incident prompted a large Fire/EMS response, which resulted in four transports. Though the patient being transported by the MedStar crew died, actions taken by those who responded are credited with preserving the health and safety of the medical and flight crew.

throughout the city. Additional projects are planned that will add resources to services across the District.

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The department regrets the passing of the following retired members:

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Congratulations to Battalion Fire Chief Charlie Diggs, who recently celebrated 39 years of service with the department. Members of Engine 16 and Tower 3 helped Chief Diggs begin his 40th year in a celebration dinner on September 10.



Pictured left to right: Fire/EMS Adrian Thompson, AFC-O Smith, Sgt. Kenneth Burchell, Sgt. Mark Varanelli, AFC-S FitzGerald and USPP Chief Dwight Pettiford.